

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 STATE 103224 TOSEC 110321

21

ORIGIN SS-15

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 /016 R

66011

DRAFTED BY: S/S-O:JHOGANSON

APPROVED BY: S/S-O:JHOGANSON

----- 054695

P 290402Z APR 76 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 103224 TOSEC 110321

FOLLOWING TEL SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO LONDON, PARIS, BONN,
DUBLIN, ROME, THE HAGUE, BRUSSELS, LISBON, COPENHAGEN, STOCKHOLM,
OSLO, NATO, EC BRUSSELS FROM MADRID APRIL 28:

QUOTE UNCLAS MADRID 3325

DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS SECRETARY'S PARTY

BRUSSELS PLEASE PASS HARTMAN

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, SP

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF ARIAS SPEECH

REF: MADRID 3288

BEGIN SUMMARY: ARIAS ANNOUNCED IN TONIGHT'S SPEECH TIMETABLE
FOR BASIC POLITICAL REFORM AS FOLLOWS: (A) SUBMISSION OF
ELECTORAL LAW TO CORTES BY JULY 15, (B) NATIONAL REFERENDUM ON
PARLIAMENTARY REFORM AND OTHER MODIFICATIONS OF BASIC LAWS IN
OCTOBER, (C) PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS IN EARLY 1977, AND (D)
PROVINCIAL AND MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS TO BE HELD SO THAT THEY DO NOT
CONFLICT WITH THE PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS. ARIAS PRAISED KING
EXTENSIVELY, AND ALSO NOTED
THE HE HIMSELF WOULD SERVE SPANISH PEOPLE AS LONG AS
KING MAINTAINED HIS CONFIDENCE IN HIM. PARLIAMENTARY
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 103224 TOSEC 110321

REFORM WOULD INVOLVE BICAMERAL SYSTEM WITH A CONGRESS

ELECTED BY UNIVERSAL AND DIRECT SUFFRAGE AND A SENATE ELECTED ON CORPORATIVE BASIS. ARIAS PLEDGED GOVT TO MAINTAIN ORDER, ITS AUTHORITY AND ITS DETERMINATION NOT TO BE DUPED INTO TRYING TO CONSTRUCT A SYSTEM OF LIBERTIES IN COLLABORATION WITH THOSE SUCH AS THE COMMUNISTS WHO SEEK THEIR DESTRUCTION. HE ALSO PLEDGED FISCAL REFORM, RE-ACTIVATION OF THE ECONOMY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE. END SUMMARY.

1. PREMIERS'S OPENING WORDS REFERRED TO QUESTIONS AND RUMORS WHICH HAVE BEEN CIRCULATING ABOUT WHAT THE PRESIDENT IS THINKING, WHAT THE GOVT IS DOING, DISSENSION IN THE GOVT, CRISIS OF CONFIDENCE, EXHAUSTION, AND THE EXISTENCE OF "A GENERALIZED STATE OF ANXIETY" WHICH ARIAS SAID IS PROMOTED BY INTERESTED PARTIES. ARIAS WENT ON TO SAY THAT HIS INTENTION WAS TO REAFFIRM GOVT RESOLUTION IN THE FACE OF THIS SUBVERSION AND TO BE RESPONSIVE TO THE PEOPLES' DISQUIET.

2. ARIAS SAID THE "CATASTROPHIC FORECASTS" OF SOME DID NOT TAKE PLACE DURING THESE FIRST MONTHS OF THE TRANSITION AND UNCERTAINTY DIDN'T LAST LONG. THE INSTITUTIONS OF THE STATE FUNCTIONED NORMALLY AND RECENT EVENTS HAVE SHOWED THAT THE MONARCHY HAS FOUND ITS PLACE IN SPAIN WHOSE PEOPLE HAVE SHOWN FERVENT LOYALTY TO KING JUAN CARLOS I. ARIAS PAID EXTENSIVE TRIBUTE TO THE KING'S VIRTUES, IN PARTICULAR HIS PRUDENCE, HIS CAPACITY FOR WORK, AND HIS YOUTHFUL ENERGY. AT THE SAME TIME, ARIAS RECALLED THE NATION'S INDEBTEDNESS TO FRANCO, NOTING THAT THE UNINTERRUPTED NUMBER OF VISITORS TO FRANCO'S TOMB TESTIFY TO THE WILL OF THE PEOPLE. THE ENTHUSIASTIC CROWDS WHICH ACCLAIMED THE KING IN CATALONIA AND ANDALUCIA ARE PROOF OF THE PEOPLES SUPPORT FOR THE PATH TRACED BY THE KING. ARIAS DEFENDED THE LEGITIMACY OF THE MONARCHY SAYING THAT, AS PERSONIFIED IN JUAN CARLOS, IT IS THE STARTING POINT FOR A NEW PERIOD IN NATIONAL LIFE. THERE IS NO PLACE FOR A RUPTURE OR ANY TYPE OF CONSTITUENT CONVENTION.

3. ARIAS STATED HIS BELIEF IN THE ABSOLUTE NECESSITY OF REFORM. NATIONAL OBJECTIVES OF PEACE, UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 103224 TOSEC 110321

FREEDOM, UNITY, AND DEVELOPMENT HAVEN'T CHANGED BUT THE GOVT WANTS TO MAKE THEM EVEN MORE SECURE BY BRINGING ABOUT CHANGES PRUDENTLY AND AVOIDING IRREPARABLE MISTAKES. IN HIS CONCEPTION, CONTINUITY AND REFORM ARE COMPLIMENTARY CONCEPTS; ONE REFORMS WHAT ONE WANTS TO CONSERVE.

4. ON THE MANNER OF CARRYING OUT REFORMS, ARIAS DESCRIBED TWO PROCEDURES WHICH WOULD BE FOLLOWED: (A) NATIONAL REFERENDUM

FOR THOSE WHICH INVOLVE A MODIFICATION OF REPRESENTATIVE INSTITUTIONS
DEFINED BY THE FUNDAMENTAL LAWS, AND (B) NORMAL PROCEDURES
THROUGH EXISTING INSTITUTIONS FOR THOSE REFORMS OF A LESSER LEVEL.

5. ARIAS THEN REVIEWED A NUMBER OF THE REFORMS ALREADY
ADOPTED OR PROPOSED BY THE GOVT AS FOLLOWS: (A) A
MODIFICATION OF THE LAW ON LOCAL GOVT SHORTENING THE TERMS
OF LOCAL OFFICIALS SO THAT THEY COULD BE ELECTED UNDER A
MORE DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM, (B) THE REVISION OF THE ANTI-TERRORIST
LAW, (C) THE THREE DRAFT LAWS SUBMITTED TO THE CORTES ON
POLITICAL ASSOCIATION, FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY, AND THE
REVISION OF THE PENAL CODE. ARIAS THEN DESCRIBED THE
NEW DRAFT LAWS WHICH WOULD REFORM THE LAW OF SUCCESSION
AND LATER THE REPRESENTATIVE SYSTEM. THE LATTER WOULD
PROVIDE FOR A BICAMERAL LEGISLATURE CONSISTING OF A
CONGRESS AND A SENATE. THE FORMER WOULD INCLUDE REPS
OF FAMILIES ELECTED BY UNIVERSAL DIRECT SUFFRAGE AND
SECRET BALLOT. EACH PROVINCE WOULD HAVE A MINIMUM NUMBER
OF DEPUTIES WITH AN INCREMENT BASED PROPORTIONATELY ON ITS
POPULATION. THE SENATE WOULD INHERIT THE FUNCTIONS OF THE
PRESENT NATIONAL COUNCIL OF THE NATIONAL MOVEMENT
BESIDES HAVING ITS "OWN COMPETENCE". ITS MEMBERS WOULD
CONSIST OF THE PERMANENT COUNCILLORS (40 DESIGNATED BY
FRANCO AND, SINCE HIS DEATH, ELECTED BY CO-OPTION), THE
25 DESIGNATED BY THE KING, AND THE REMAINDER ELECTED
ACCORDING TO THE CORPORATE SYSTEM PROVIDED IN THE LAWS.
A NEW ELECTORAL LAW WOULD ALSO BE ADOPTED AS PART OF THIS
NEW GROUP OF REFORMS. ARIAS ARGUED THAT THE PACE OF REFORM HAD,
INDEED NOT BEEN SLOW, AND EXPLAINED THE GOVT'S DECISION
NOT TO USE DECREE LAWS, WHICH, HE SAID, WOULD HAVE ONLY UNDERMINED
CONFIDENCE IN THE INSTITUTIONS AND THE PEOPLE.

6. ARIAS THEN ANNOUNCED THE FOLLOWING CALENDAR FOR REFORMS:
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 STATE 103224 TOSEC 110321

(A) COMPLETION OF ALL PREVIOUSLY MENTIONED BILLS BY MAY 15;
(B) SUBMISSION OF AN ELECTORAL LAW TO THE CORTES BEFORE JULY 15,
(C) SUBMISSION OF THE PARLIAMENTARY REFORM LAW AND OTHERS
WHICH AFFECT FUNDAMENTAL LAWS TO THE PEOPLE BY REFERENDUM
IN OCTOBER, (D) THE CONVOKING OF PARLIAMENTARY
ELECTIONS BEFORE THE END OF 1976 TO BE HELD IN THE FIRST
MONTHS OF 1977, (E) PROVINCIAL AND LOCAL ELECTIONS WHICH
WOULD BE SYNCHRONIZED SO THEY WOULD NOT TAKE PLACE AT
THE SAME TIME AS THE PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS.

7. ON OTHER REFORMS ARIAS SAID HE TRUSTED THAT THE
NATIONAL SYNDICAL ORGANIZATION, FOLLOWING EXTENSIVE
CONSULTATIONS OF ITS MEMBERS, WOULD COME UP WITH PROPOSALS
FOR REFORM. HE ALSO URGED THE SPECIAL COMMISSIONS FOR THE
STUDY OF REGIONAL PROBLEMS IN THE BASQUE PROVINCES, THE

CANARY ISLANDS, AND CATALONIA, AND OTHERS IF THEY SO
DESIRE, TO MAKE SIMILAR PERTINENT PROPOSALS FOR THE GOVT.

7. ARIAS REMINED SPANIARDS THAT "INTERNATIONAL
COMMUNISM HAS NOT FORGOTTEN ITS DEFEAT ON OUR SOIL."
HE SAID THAT SPANARDS WOULD NOT FALL INTO THE INGENUOUSNESS
OF CONSTRUCTING A SYSTEM OF LIBERTIES IN COLLABORATION WITH
THOSE WHO DENY AND SEEK THEIR DESTRUCTION. NOR WOULD HTE
GOVT BE DECEIVED BY COMMUNIST MANIFESTATIONS NOR DISORIENTED
BY ITS "PACTS AND CIRCUMSTANTIAL ALLIANCES". IF EXTREMIST
GROUPS, HOWEVER, DECIDED TO SOW CONFUSION AND BRING ABOUT
VIOLENCE, THEN THE GOVT WOULD NOT VACILLATE IN TAKING THE
NECESSARY MEASURES TO MAINTAIN ORDER.

9. TURNING TO THE LABOR
FRONT, ARIAS SAID THE WORKERS THEMSELVES WERE THE FIRST
VICTIMS IN "PAINFUL SITUATIONS" BROUGHT ABOUT BY OUTSIDE
AGITATORS WHO RECEIVED "LARGE SUMS" FOR THEIR ACTIVITIES.
THE GOVT WOULD INSIST ON THE NECESSITY TO EXHAUST ALL
POSSIBILITIES OF DIALOGUE AND CONCILIATION IN SEEKING
THE RESOLUTION OF LABOR/MANAGEMENT PROBLEMS. STRIKES HAVE
CAUSED THE LOSS OF 50 MILLION WORK HOURS IN TWO MONTHS,
A SERIOUS BLOW TO THE NATIONAL ECONOMY. THE GOVT WOULD DO
ITS UTMOST TO COPE WITH UNEMPLOYMENT, AND BRING ABOUT A
SUBSTANTIAL TAX REFORM. IN HIS VIEW, THE ECONOMY HAD
ALREADY BOTTOMED OUT AND WAS EXPERIENCING SOME SIGNS OF
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 05 STATE 103224 TOSEC 110321

RECOVERY.

10. IN HIS CONCLUDING REMARKS ARIAS REITERATED GOVT'S
DETERMINATION TO MAINTAIN ORDER AND ITS OWN AUTHORITY. HE
EXPRESSED HIS OWN THANKS FOR THE SUPPORT WHICH HE HAS
RECEIVED FROM THE SPANISH PEOPLE PLEDGING THAT HE WOULD
NOT FLINCH IN HIS SERVICE TO THEM AS LONG AS THE KING
HONORS HIM WITH HIS CONFIDENCE. STABLER UNQUOTE SISCO

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GOVERNMENT REFORM, TOSEC, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, SPEECHES, LAND REFORMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 APR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE103224
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: O:JHOGANSON
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760162-0352
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t1976047/aaaaafia.tel
Line Count: 209
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 MADRID 3288
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 SEP 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14 SEP 2004 by cookms>; APPROVED <16 NOV 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SUMMARY OF ARIAS SPEECH
TAGS: PINT, ACOM, SP, (ARIAS NAVARRO, CARLOS)
To: SECRETARY
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006